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VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

VACAVILLE , CALIFORNIA

March 2014

Presidents Message,

Well happy March to everyone, looks like we are starting off with a little rain. That's OK, we can use some about now.

Last February meeting was well attended, thank you for that. Partially do to our guest speakers from the Benicia Amateur Radio Club. Art & Mike put on a great show, a little technical for me at times, but very informative.

Also Bill Albers gave us an update on the 145.470 repeater, seems everything is in good working order. Bill advised that some improvements will be underway soon if he and Skipp get a little free time.

Speaking of programs, we are going to have a great one this month. VCERT (Vacaville Community Emergency Response Team) will give a talk on what they do and how we can help. Should be an informative and entertaining program.

We are going to meet for our pre-meeting gathering at 5:30 PM, Napoli's Pizzeria, 2030 Nut Tree Road, Vacaville CA 95687, x-street Nut Tree Rd. This is the Restaurant we meet at in January. This time they'll be ready for us!

Back to radio stuff…We missed the X5 class solar flare on Monday the 25th of February by inches. Apparently when the flare erupted, it did so perpendicular to earth so the impact was minimal. If it hit us head-on it would have

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Ham?
***HAM*??!!**
Where?
I'm Hungry!

VVRC Meeting Notes

A number of VVRC members joined our two guests for the evening, for pizza and fellowship at the Round Table Pizza in Vacaville prior to convening the March meeting at the Elmira Fire house.

Afterwards, President, Mike Vieira – W6MAV, called the meeting to order at 19:15 hr.

V.P. Jerry Olive – KD6WKY, and Treasurer, Bob Hewitt – K6HEW, were absent.

A motion was made / seconded / passed to accept the February meeting notes as written.

The following points were made:

The Tuesday night net will begin at 20:00 hr, because another group up North shares the same repeater pair with us and their net begins at 19:30.

Our monthly meetings will begin with a short board meeting at 19:00, followed by the general membership portion at 19:30 hr.

"***Field Day-2014***" is 28/29 June, and George and Maria Vidal have graciously extended an invitation for us to use their property in English Hills for our station this year. Folks, if we're going to make this a successful and fun club event, we'll all need to chip in and help. Get in touch with Jerry and see what you can do to help share the workload.

Art Mayoff – AB6HB

Mike then introduced our two visiting speakers for

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President's Message from pg-1..Cont

severely damaged satellite communication all around the world.

Bill Albers

Closer to home, one of our members lost a family member. Tom Lish N6AJR lost his father Thomas Lish. Tom's father was a retired Chief Master Sgt with 22 years of service to his country. Tom's father was 91 years old.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting March 13th, Elmira Firehouse. At 7:00 business -7:30PM general. Also at the pre-meeting get together at Napoli's 5:30 PM, or earlier if you would like to imbibe in some adult beverages.

Thanks,

73 Mike W6MAV

Meeting notes from pg-1..Cont

the evening: Art Mayoff – AB6HB, and Mike Paquette – KK6DCM, from the Benicia Amateur Radio Club (BARC).

Art demonstrated how to construct a simple and lightweight VHF Yagi antenna using lengths of a common tape measure for the elements and some PVC pipe.

He then showed how the Benicia club had constructed a very compact, extremely well thought-out, "*grab-n-go*" kit - a complete radio station in a protective, easily moved, waterproof box. If you've ever dreamed of being able to take your station afield on vacation, hunting trips, or just to be ready in case of a real emergency, this presentation was full of great ideas!

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Mike Paquette, KK6DCM

Mike Paquette – KK6DCM, spoke on antenna basics / theory, presenting a very good review of "how" and "why" a Yagi antenna works.

Thanks to both of these gentlemen for sharing this evening!

Next we were very fortunate to have Bill, part of our "repeater team", in attendance to give us an update and answer questions about our repeater system.

After we had all run out of questions, the meeting was adjourned at 20:50 hr.

Respectfully submitted,

"Skip" Lawson – AF6HC

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB--2013

ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Mike Vieria, W6MAV
Vice President: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Secretary: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Antonio DelRio, N6ZGB
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Arthur Miller, KI6UXE
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Club Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

DX'n in The Early Days

Jimmy Did His 'Ether Blasting' With a Full, Round Kilowatt, and a Kilowatt At Half a Mile Gives Forth an Easily Readable Signal, Brother! It Is In Fact, Quite Audible.

My Very Own Ham Shack

Jerry Bowen; KJ6SCC

A while back I decided to build my own ham shack…and it's turning out to be more work than I thought it would be. I have to admit, I'm not much of a carpenter. Some of my past projects have become quite a spectacular blight in my neighborhood.

But with the following several reasons behind my decision to build one I thought it would be a good idea.

1. With my lousy state of hearing, I have to wear headphones so my wife wouldn't have to let me know in very uncertain terms to "turn off that darn noise; you're driving me nuts." I find headphones and eyeglasses get a little painful after a bit of time together.

2. Thanks to the guvmint and health care my retirement check drops an average of over a hundred bucks a month each year, so I decided to build it myself.

3. Also after checking out the quality of the pre-built shacks at local home improvement stores I felt they were too cheaply put together. I was ***sure*** I could do better…at least at the beginning of the project.

4. I had a lot of very good lumber left over from my garage that collapsed a few years ago during a windstorm so I could save money that way.

Well, after two months of finger smashing, dropping heavy concrete footings on my feet, and having to buy new lumber because tape measures and I don't always agree on the number of inches to make a cut, I have the basic shell up, shingled and made watertight just in case it decides to rain here in California. Maybe I can even get some paint on it the first time around and not have to repaint it.

As to the future...which I progress with some trepidation... is to install solar panels that have been laying around for a couple of years (hope they work) and wire in a 12 VDC system. I intend to have the shack able to operate off the grid, but will also put in 120 volt wiring so that I can run it from a generator or an extension cord that will reach an outside outlet at the house. I will also install a very Hi-end sound system so I can hear more clearly that noise, as my wife says, is emanating from my receiver.

Then install insulation and wallboard, a small air conditioner, operating desk, antenna feed-throughs and finally both vintage and modern Ham equipment.

Did I save any money?? I refuse to answer that question, but it does look...well…sturdy!

How long will it take me? That's anybody's guess, and in the meantime, I'll just point my worst ear towards the wife and of course, turn down the volume. I have to, because she's a great XYL.

In the meantime, now that we are getting some rain, I do believe that I'll just sit around for a while and relapse....I mean relax

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browsw our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Elmira Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: vacavalleyradio.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-)
WV6F 440.025(+)
WV6F 1291.900(-)

THE BIT BUCKET

This week **Jerry Olive, KD6WKY**, recieved two fun awards from the ARRL: 2012 ARRL November Sweepstakes

1. **1st Place, East Bay Section, Single Operator, Low Power, Phone.**
2. **2012 ARRL 10 Meter Contest, 1st Place, East Bay Section, Single Operator Mixed Mode, Low Power.**

The letters with the very nice certificates suitable for framing said the league is running behind on getting the awards out due to personnel changes.

Congratulations are in order from all the members of the VVRC

Over the weekend I heard HL5FUA on the 12 meter band calling CQ on 24.980 MHz, his signal was loud and clear here in North America. The operator spoke pretty good English as he announced, "CQ this is HL5FUA listing up 10."

I switched my VFO-B over to 24,990 MHz and could hear several US stations calling him; the pile up was building.

Let's talk about this at the next club meeting. What's wrong with this picture?

Jerry Olive; KD6WKY,

A little Reminder

If you would like to chat on-line about the VVRC, go to our new Twitter account @w6vvr and chat away.

Also we have a Facebook account, just go to Facebook and search for w6vvr and there you are.

One other thing is we also have a "blog", that's right a "blog", just do a Google search for Vaca Valley Radio Club Blog and enter your email address to follow all the comments. We are now in the 21st Century thanks to Frank KJ6EWQ our media guru guy.

Thanks to everyone for making this a great club,

Mike; W6MAV

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

1st week of month-Jerry Bowen; KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Richard Craig; KJ6MIB
3rd week of month-Chris Jones; KD7TQO
4th week of month-Marcus MacLean; KI6WDX
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt; K6HEW

On Pages 6 & 7 I added the ARRL chart of Ham Technician Frequencies for the new Tech Hams and a photo of a 1935 ham radio station courtesy of Jerry KD6WKY and Skip AF6HC. It's a great photo from the past!

From the 2014-02-26 ARRL News Letter

Radials Info

Ground radials are plenty important and there is a lot of literature on them but it's sprinkled all over the web, it seems. Ross KB8NTY has done us all a big favor by collecting links to them in a single place Thanks, Ross!www.rossradio.net

CAPE-2 CubeSat Designated as OSCAR-75

The University of Louisiana CAPE-2 (Cajun Advanced Picosatellite Experiment) CubeSat has been designated OSCAR-75 or LO-75, AMSAT OSCAR Number Administrator Bill Tynan, W3XO, has announced. CAPE-2 operates on 145.825 MHz, with a CW beacon that identifies with the call sign W5UL.

It also includes a digipeater, text-to-speech module, a simplex repeater, and e-mail and tweet functions. Ground station software is available.

FUNcube was recently designated OSCAR-73 or AO-73, while CubeBug-2 (aka "Manolito") has been designated as LO-74 (see PE0SAT).

AMSAT News Service and Bill Tynan, W3XO

Firmware Change for Icom IC-7700

QRZ DX reports that Icom America has announced a firmware upgrade for their IC-7700 transceiver. This update provides enhanced user interface, refined operational controls, improved audio and voice functionality and more. The firmware upgrade will be free to download on-line around March 20.

Links to Tube manuals & Info

Tim K3HX found a website called with links to lots of books on vacuum tube technology. Solid-state may be coming on strong but there are a lot of tubes still generating lots of watts on the ham bands!

tubebooks.org

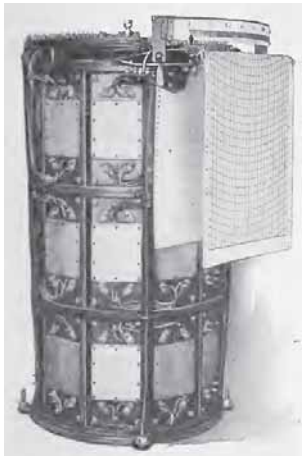
Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment

Will Rogers

HUGE ELECTRIC METER RECORDS 250,000 KILOWATTS.

Ref-Electrical Experimenter, January 1918, Page 601

The largest graphic recording meter in the- world is illustrated in the accompanying cut. It has a capacity of 250,000 kilowatts and is installed in the Keokuk plant of the Mississippi River I'ower Company. To meter the output of the thirty three-phase generators used in this plant required the use of thirty polyphase meter elements, each made up of two single-phase units. In carrying out the design of this instrument the desirability of using the same general design in other instruments was borne in mind, with the result that the supporting frame was made up of three sections as sliown, each carrying ten polyphase meter elements, thereby making it possible to construct a similar instrument of ten elements or any multiple of ten up to fifty.



With a Capacity of 250,000 Kilowatts to Your House Meter. This Meter Is as Tall as a Man and the Largest Ever Built

The induction type of meter element was adopted, after having devised an element capable of being calibrated mechanically for torque without effecting the correction for power factor. The moving element consists of six aluminum vanes, all mounted on a single staff, supported in such a manner as completely to eliminate friction.

All connections are carried to the top of the instrument to a circular terminal board carrying 240 binding posts, four being used for each single-phase meter element. The actual width of chart is 12.5 in. (31.8 cm.). The charts used are printed in twelve-hour sections and fed at the rate of 3 in. (7.6 cm.) per hour over two rollers, one of which carries pins for driving the paper and is rotated by means of a solenoid-operated ratchet connected in the electric clock system of the plant. The indicating scale which faces the system operator's desk is illuminated and graduated to the same range as the chart.

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With an instrument of this type it is possible to totalize the output of a station of any capacity or a number of stations or systems, regardless of differences in frequencies, voltage and whether or not they are in synchronism, and instruments of the same type can be built for any number of circuits from five to fifty.

Ham radio operator looses hand and fingers in tower accident.

A 52-year-old ham radio operator lost several fingers and one of his hands Thursday when his amateur radio antenna tower collapsed on him while he was working on it.

Multiple agencies responded to Bearpaw Galindo's home on Caravelle Road after his wife, Gail Perry, phoned 911 and informed a dispatcher the man was hanging 20 feet in the air with his right arm pinned within a telescoping-type tower.

Perry said Galindo was repairing a portion of the 40-foot-tall telescoping tower, when a cable holding it up snapped and caused the top portions of the tower to collapse on his hands.

"I saw his fingers fly off of his right hand," Perry told The Press. "I never want to see something like that again."

According to a press release from the Timberlake Fire Protection District, crews were dispatched to the scene at 11:58 a.m., and proceeded to raise the tower in an effort to free Galindo's arm. After 20 minutes, the man was extricated and lowered to the ground.
Galindo was trapped for a total of 45 minutes.

"I can't say anything better about them," Perry said of the emergency responders. "They were awesome."

Galindo was then transported by Life Flight to Kootenai Health.

Doctors told Perry her husband was in critical condition early Thursday evening. At 3 p.m., Galindo was taken into surgery, where doctors performed a partial amputation on his left hand and a full amputation on the right. Perry said doctors estimated the surgery would last more than four hours.

"They (doctors) said that he will be in the hospital for quite a few days," Perry said.

There are three kinds of men: The ones that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.

Will Rogers

US Amateur Radio Technician Privileges

This chart shows privileges and band plan recommendations for each of the frequencies, as granted by the FCC to the Technician licensee. It is good amateur practice to follow the band plan established by the Amateur Radio community. The band plan is developed so that spectrum allocated for our use is used most effectively. You'll find a complete description of the band plan online at wwww.arrl.org/band-plan.

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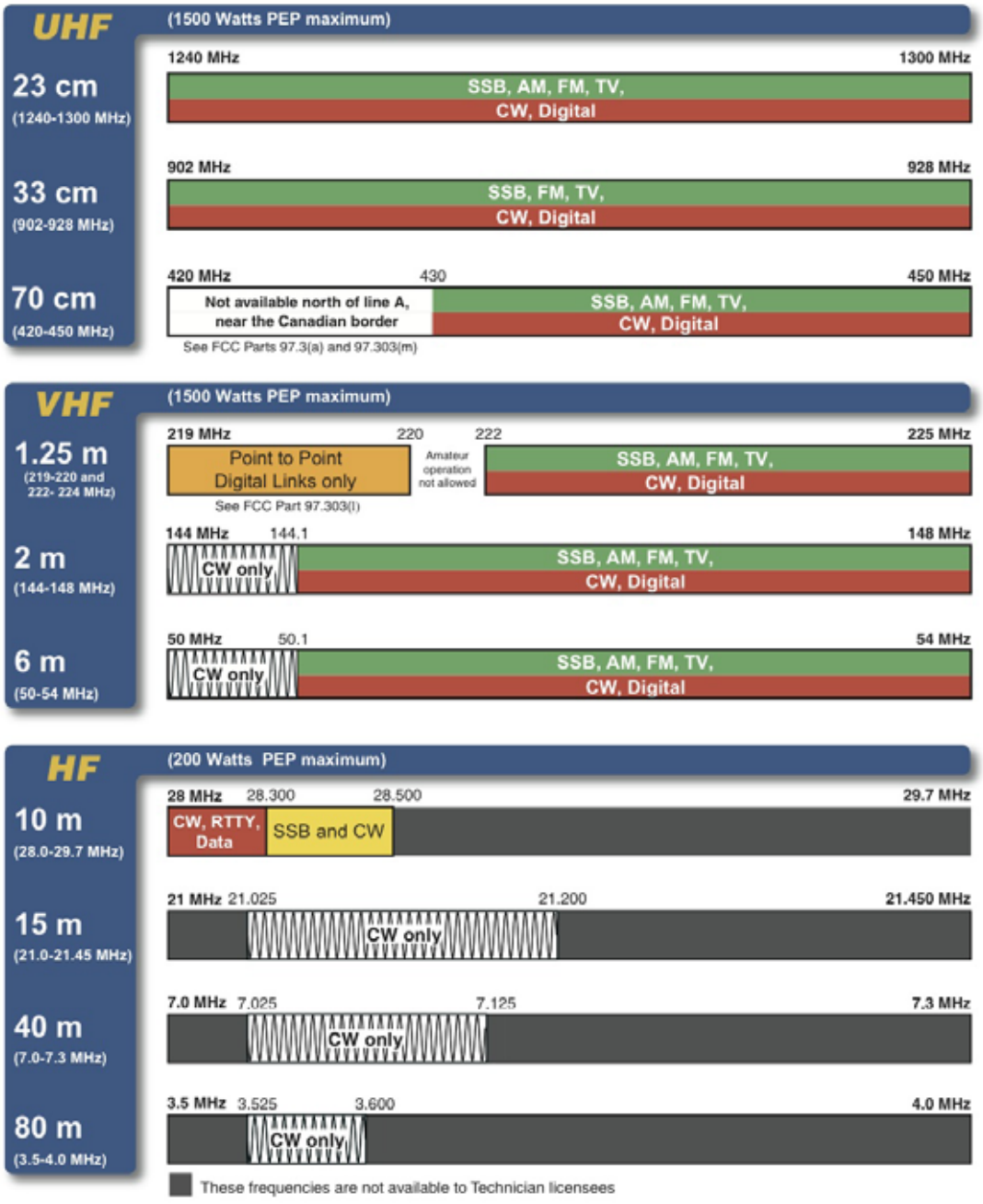
Effective Date March 5, 2012



Notes:

Technician Licenses may use up to 1500 Watts PEP on the VHF and higher bands, but are limited to 200 Watts on the HF bands.
You also have privileges to explore these microwave bands with CW, Digital, SSB, AM, FM and TV:

2300-2310 MHz	2390-2450 MHz	3300-3500 MHz	5650-5925 MHz	10.0-10.5 GHz	24.0-24.25 GHz
47.0-47.2 GHz	76.0-81.0 GHz	122.25-123.0 GHz	134-141 GHz	241-250 GHz	All above 275 GHz

rev. 10-24-12

Technicians Frequency Chart From The ARRL

1935 Ham Radio Station

Call for ham volunteers - Oakland Marathon Sunday March

From: Mike Pompa mpompa@gmail.comIt's time once again to ask for your help with the 2014 Oakland Running Festival on Sunday March 23. Please respond directly to Mike if you are interested: Please let me know if you're interested in volunteering.

Ham radio jobs include:

·Net Control Operators and Scribe
·Course Marshals
·Race Director Shadows
·Bicycle (or moto) mobile

You can suggest your job preference and time availability. The marathon length starts first, around 7 AM and ends around 4 PM. The 10K length starts around 9 AM. Half the runners are back by around noon, but the stragglers need the most monitoring.

Course marshals along the early parts of the route start early but end quickly. In later parts of the marathon route, you can arrive later, but you must remain there longer.

Thanks,
Mike KB6MP

From the 1918 Electronic Experimenter Magazine

MOUNTING TINFOIL ON GLASS CONDENSER PLATES.

A good shellac for fastening the foil to the glass in transmitting condensers may be made by dissolving as much powdered rosin as possible in one ounce of turpentine and thinning the mixture by the addition of one-half ounce of alcohol. Only a very small amount of rosin will be needed.

About three drops of shellac should be put in the center of the surface of the glass and rubbed around well. Place the foil on the glass and roll it fast with a photographic print roller. The foil must be placed on at once, as the mixture dries quickly. When this varnish is used the plates may either be stacked or placed in an open rack.

After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

Will Rogers

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

Street:
_____

City: _____Zip:
_____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)

License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)

E-Mail
Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues	$20.00	_____
Each Family Member	$ 2.00	_____
Student	$ 5.00	_____
Repeater/Autopatch donation		_____
Call/Name badge	$11.00	_____
Optional ARRL membership		
ARRL dues	$37.00	
Total		_____

Paid by CASH: Check # _____

DATE: _____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143